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## 2003 Old Vine Zinfandel

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*Seghesio's Old Vine Zinfandel perfectly embodies our family's goal of **Sharing Uncommon Ground**. Only our finest lots from the oldest vineyards make it into this composite blend. These vineyards are rare treasures we have farmed over the course of our family's century as grape growers. Although "Old Vine" is often loosely interpreted, our benchmark is fifty years. The average age of the vines producing this wine nears 90 years.*




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Vineyard Locations	Old "head-pruned" vineyards in Alexander and Dry Creek Valleys.
Vintage	In 2003, the weather was unpredictable, mandating meticulous farming. In April, it was so cold that the vines hardly grew. Then, in May, it was so hot you could watch them grow every day. Summer brought waves of heat and cooling, more cooling, and, finally, at the onset of harvest, a freak thunderous lightning storm that reigned over the region.
Vineyard Regime	A wet Spring and warm May produced an abundance of leaves; the most we've ever seen! Our skilled crews made multiple passes through the vineyards to remove leaves and weak shoots, providing the fruit with optimum exposure to sunlight, and saving our crop in September's unsettled weather.
Hand-Harvested	September 8 - 18, 2003
Average Brix at Harvest	26.1°
Fermentation Regime	100% punch-down fermentation in open-top fermenters; total maceration (juice on skins) time ten days
Barrel Regime	Barrel-aged 12 months in 75% French oak (33% new), 25% American oak
Food Affinities	Beef, pasta with red sauce, barbecue, spicy cuisine
<i>Alcohol – 15.3%</i> <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><i>Release Date - September 2005</i></span>	

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### **Winemaker Notes:**

“Old Vine Zinfandel is created from a composite of our top Old Vine lots. The synergic consortium of farming and winemaking coalesce to produce exceptional fruit intensity and purity of flavor with stylistic preference, therefore creating a wine whose whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The 2003 Old Vine Zin is deliciously dark-fruited and savory-spiced with a kaleidoscope of flavor tones redolent of raspberries, ripe cherries, and black currants that are delightfully varietal in nature. These attractive qualities epitomize Old Vine Zin’s distinctive “of the earth” briary/clove spice infusion with a richness that transcends time. Salute!”

-- Ted Seghesio